

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024 // The Rev. David Curtis**

### **Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time**

This Lent, All Saints gathered on Wednesday nights for a meal, a reflection based on the St. John's Bible, and worship in the Taizé style. This time apart from the rest of my busy life was a balm for my soul.

The St. John's Bible is an illustrated manuscript of the Bible, handwritten and hand drawn. Ben selected a variety of images that engaged us and stimulated conversation and reflection.

One week, we focused on an image of Lazarus being raised from the tomb. However, the image was from the perspective of Lazarus in the tomb! Looking out from the darkness of the tomb, Lazarus, probably a bit dodgy and confused, saw Jesus, calling him forth. I wonder what Lazarus thought as suddenly air rushed back into his lungs and he smelled the earth of the tomb and he met Jesus, again, for the first time.

There have been times in my life when it feels like Jesus is calling me forth from a place of confinement and darkness. In those moments, I am unbound from that which has held me, and I can see differently. I can let go of the breath that I have been holding way too long. And, in this newness, it seems I meet Jesus, again, for the first time.

This week, this Holy Week, we will gather, yet again, to wash feet, to hear the Passion, to hear salvation history, and to celebrate at that empty tomb. And, as we approach the day of Resurrection, I pray that God is working to set you free and to unbind you from the things that hinder you. May God call you forth from the darkness to the light of resurrection and new life. And, when this happens, may you meet Jesus, again, for the first time.

David+